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# Gay Youth in Filmmakers Library

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## Gay Youth

Produced by Pam Walton

*New*



*The increased risk of suicide facing gay and lesbian youth is linked to growing up in a society that teaches them to hide and to hate themselves.*

Kevin Burrill NCLIF

This is the first video to explore the emotional strain placed on gay youth by intense feelings of isolation. Adolescence is typically a time of conformity when one needs to feel secure in a peer group. But lesbian and gay young people are acutely aware of being different and often have no one to talk to about these feelings. This isolation frequently leads them to drug and alcohol abuse, violence, homelessness and even suicide. In fact, in the recently published *Report on Youth Suicide*, the shocking fact emerged that fully 30% of young people between the ages of 15 and 24 who committed suicide were gay or lesbian.

This documentary has been designed to break the silence surrounding adolescent homosexuality. It contrasts the suicide death of 20-year old Bobby Griffith with the remarkable and courageous life of 17-year old Gina Gutierrez. Gina is not afraid to meet homophobic attitudes straight on. *Gay Youth* shows that information, acceptance, and support can make enormous differences in the lives of these young people.

■ San Francisco Lesbian & Gay Film Festival, 1992

40 min Video Sale \$295 Rental \$55

*Released 1993*

## Out in Suburbia: The Stories of Eleven Lesbians

Produced by Pam Walton

*WHL owns*

*Explores the inclusion of women of color, older women, the sisters and the reactions of parents. This is a good portrayal of what it's like for lesbians.*

Amy Berlinger Student Affairs, Univ. of California, Santa Cruz

*An enlightening program for community colleges, women's groups and general interest audiences.*

Booklist

*Other than their unintentional affectionate preferences, these likeable women are no different than their neighbors.*

San Francisco Examiner



This remarkably honest and revealing documentary shatters the stereotypes held by many people unfamiliar with the gay community. Eleven women discuss with heartwarming frankness their lives in local neighborhoods, covering a wide range of issues including marriage, motherhood, discrimination, stereotypes and female roles.

*Out in Suburbia* shows us that many lesbians have mainstream values and lead conventional lives. This film reaches out to classes on human sexuality, psychology, women's issues and lifestyles.

■ Toronto Lesbian and Gay Film Festival, 1992

■ AFI's American Independent Cinema, 1990

■ American Film and Video Festival, 1989

■ National Educational Film and Video Festival, 1989

■ Women in the Director's Chair, 1989

■ Best Doc, San Francisco Lesbian and Gay Film Festival, 1989

■ National Council on Family Relations, 1989

28 min Video Sale \$295 Rental \$55 Discussion guide available

*Released 1990*

## ✓ A Lesbian in The Pulpit

Produced by Canadian Broadcasting Corporation

*Should spark some lively discussion.*

Video Rating Guide



Sally Boyle, an ordained minister in the United Church of Canada, and Erin Shoomaker, executive director of an AIDS foundation, have been living together as a lesbian couple for four-and-a-half years. Despite the opposition of many members of the church, these two women have taken the courageous stand of fighting for the right to be themselves.

The membership of the church has been in great conflict over the issue of homosexuality. Those who subscribe to a strict reading of the Bible believe it is morally wrong. Sally believes the conventional idea of family must be broadened, not only within the church, but in society at large.

28 min Video Sale \$295 Rental \$55

*Released 1991*

## Lighting in Southwest Louisiana Gay Life in Rural America

Produced and directed by  
Peter Friedman and  
Jean-Francois Brunet



*This program will strike a responsive chord and will greatly help to educate, enlighten and broaden our views of gay life in America*

*Library Journal*

Far from the sophistication and relative tolerance of urban centers, gay people are beginning to lead integrated lives in small towns throughout rural America. Danny Cooper has been upfront about his homosexuality since his teens. Now he lives openly with his lover. As the local mailman in a small Louisiana town, he has come to be accepted in a friendly and courteous manner by his neighbors.

Although Danny has been through fights in school, was once fired from his job, and even evicted from his home, he has never failed to stand up for his right to be himself. In the end, he is changing the face of anti-gay prejudice in his town.

Today, Danny is fighting his hardest battle—against HIV infection—with the same openness and courage. And even though his T-cell count is near zero, he describes himself as “the luckiest human in the world.”

- *Juror's Award, Black Maria Film Festival, 1992*
- *Bronze Apple, National Educational Film Festival, 1992*
- *Red Ribbon, American Film & Video Festival, 1992*
- *New York Gay & Lesbian Film Festival, 1991*
- *Best Short, Los Angeles Gay & Lesbian Film Festival, 1991*
- *London Lesbian & Gay Film Festival, 1992*
- *Melbourne Gay Film Festival, 1991*

27 min Video Sale \$295 Rental \$55 *Released 1992*

## ✓ We Are Family Parenting and Foster Parenting In Gay Families

Produced by Aimee Sands in  
Association with WGBH

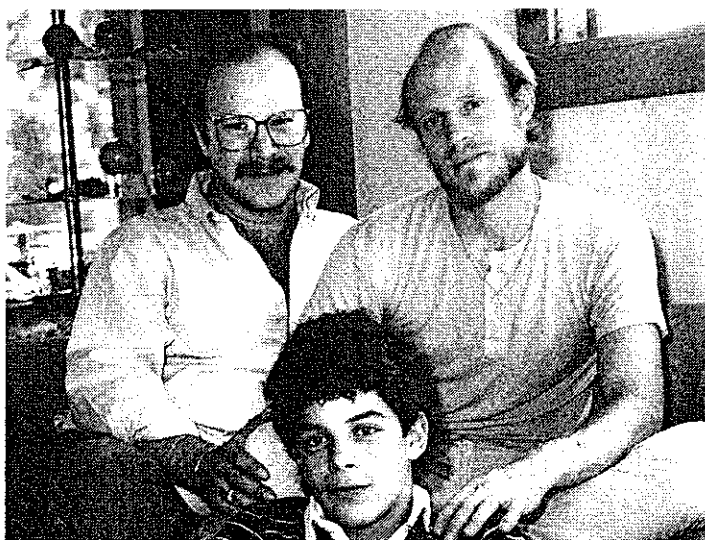
*Highly recommended  
Choice*

*Strips away the homophobia associated with AIDS and provides a rich, sensitive portrait of life in homosexual families with parents as committed to their children as any heterosexual parent*

*The Boston Globe*

*intelligent choice for public library and special interest group audiences*

*Booklist*



They walk their dogs, play Monopoly, have meals together, assign chores and work out difficulties. It all sounds like normal family life. However there is one difference that would surprise most people. The parents in these families happen to be gay or lesbian.

*We Are Family* takes a look at what life is really like in homosexual families, with the focus on parenting and the well being of the children. We meet three different families—one foster, one biological and one adoptive. In one family, two gay fathers tell of their efforts to create a secure environment for their 16-year-old foster son who was on the road to delinquency. In another household, two lesbian mothers have helped their adopted 11-year-old boy overcome the emotional trauma of disability and early neglect. In the third family, we hear how two adolescent daughters have accepted their father's homosexuality.

As gay liberation paves the way for non-traditional families, questions are being raised as to how this affects the children. Is there a risk of sexual abuse? Will they be raised to be gay themselves? What about gender role models? By seeing how much these gay and lesbian parents have to offer their children, we realize that good parenting is independent of sexual orientation.

- *American Film & Video Festival, 1988*
- *American Psychiatric Association, 1987*
- *National Association of Women's Studies, 1988*
- *Special Jury Award, San Francisco Film Festival, 1988*
- *Women in the Director's Chair, 1988*
- *Certificate of Merit, Chicago International Film Festival, 1987*
- *San Francisco Gay and Lesbian Film Festival, 1987*
- *Selected for Competition, Banff TV Festival, 1987*
- *Chicago Lesbian and Gay Film Festival, 1987*

57 min Video Sale \$445 Rental \$75 *Released 1988*

## Because This is About Love A Portrait of Gay and Lesbian Marriage

Produced by Shulee Ong

*New*



This is a touching profile of five lesbian and gay couples from multicultural backgrounds who have made a life long commitment to each other by going through a marriage ceremony. Each couple tells their own story of how they met, why they decided to marry and how their family and friends responded. These funny, bittersweet and, at times, triumphant stories speak of the power of love.

There are no parental pressures or societal advantages persuading these couples to wed. They do not share in one another's health insurance or retirement benefits, or file a joint tax return the way conventional couples do. Without legal status or religious sanction, they are validating their commitment to one another. It is a commitment that lends joy and meaning to life, especially for a gay couple who are each infected with the AIDS virus.

The power of this film is that it portrays in warm, non-threatening terms, a revolutionary act that questions the very foundations of family structure.

- Toronto Lesbian & Gay Film Festival, 1992
- Los Angeles Lesbian & Gay Film Festival, 1992

28 min. Video Sale \$295 Rental \$55 *Released 1993*

## ✓ Silent Pioneers Gay and Lesbian Elders

A film by Pat Snyder, Lucy Winer, Harvey Marks and Paula deKoenigsberg in consultation with SAGE (Senior Action in a Gay Environment)

*Silent Pioneers* is an elderly lesbian and gay couple's look about their lives, their choices and satisfying relationships and entanglements in this new film.

*Booklist* Editor's Choice

*Silent Pioneers* could be seen by everyone. It will warm hearts, raise consciousness and inspire great achievement.

*SIECUS*

*Silent Pioneers* is for audiences in a new subject area. Highly recommended.

*Library Journal*

*Silent Pioneers* could be classed as a pioneer in the field of sexuality.

*Choice*



## AIDS: No Sad Songs

A film by Nick Sheehan presented by the AIDS Committee of Toronto

*AIDS: No Sad Songs* is a film for better understanding of AIDS and for victims of the disease.

*Landers Film Reviews*

*AIDS: No Sad Songs* is a movie about AIDS. It is a movie as a testament to human strength in the face of deadly adversity.

*The Toronto Star*

In this film we meet eight elderly gays and lesbians who lived through an era when homosexuality was not tolerated and who battled constantly for self-esteem and survival in a "straight world." Among them are: a male couple still in love after 55 years of living together; a feminist author/political activist living in an intergenerational community in Florida; a former monk turned rancher who in his eighties has made peace with being Catholic and gay; a black great-grandmother who revealed her lesbianism to her grandchildren; a feisty ex-waitress from Chicago.

This film challenges many stereotypes about homosexuals and shows that they have long-standing, deep-rooted commitments. And we see that older people are not asexual, as young people often believe.

*Silent Pioneers* is important for general audiences, both gay and non-gay. Counselors, anthropologists, psychologists, social service providers and gerontologists will be sensitized to the needs of gay and lesbian elders.

- Award Winner, Black Maria Film Festival, 1986
- Emmy Nomination, Outstanding Program, 1986
- Gold Plaque, Chicago International Film Festival, 1985
- Gold Athena, Athens International Film Festival, 1985
- CINE Golden Eagle, 1985

42 min. Sale: 16 mm \$650; Video \$395. All rentals \$65. A 30 min. version is available on video. *Released 1985*

This film focuses on the emotional and psychological effects of AIDS, rather than the medical aspects. It centers on Jim Black who faces an early death, and Catherine Hunt, whose brother is ill. Jim's crusade is to bring AIDS victims "out of the closet." He does not regard it as a shameful disease. Catherine tells us how open communication with her ailing brother enabled them both to bear the prospect of his death.

- San Francisco Lesbian & Gay Film Festival, 1986
- Chicago International Film Festival, 1985

30 min. Video Sale \$295 Rental \$55. Original theatrical version 61 min. Sale \$495 Rental \$100 *Released 1986*

Blue

New

Produced and directed by  
Heather MacDonald



When Heather MacDonald, an American filmmaker, went to Kiev to film the homosexual population there, her first challenge was how to locate them. Lesbians and gay men have taken great pains to avoid detection, having lived with the threat of Article 121 which criminalizes homosexuality.

As the film shows, Heather's determination to make contact succeeded and nine men and women took the great risk to reveal their stories to an American audience. This film cannot be shown in Eastern European countries or former Soviet republics. These articulate men and women speak about their lives, fears, encounters with blackmail, government harassment and family rejection. They speak of chilling encounters with a Major Kosenko of the MVD, who uses gay informants blackmailed into his service.

One of their greatest frustrations is their inability to recognize and meet with their counterparts. While in Moscow and St Petersburg there is the beginning of a gay culture and a gay press, in Kiev leadership has not yet emerged.

Each of the people interviewed were cynical about the possibility of real change in their situation. Yet one of the positive results from trusting the filmmaker is that they have broken through their self-imposed anonymity. In this way they have become acquainted with each other, and have been able to form the nucleus of a group working for change.

- New York Lesbian & Gay Film Festival, 1992
- Los Angeles Lesbian & Gay Film Festival, 1992

28 minutes Video Sale \$295 Rental \$55 *Released 1993*

## This is Dedicated Grieving When A Partner Dies

Alleycat Productions

New



The feelings of bereavement suffered by a lesbian or gay man who has lost a lover are intensified by the fact that society does not recognize this loss. Whether the death occurs due to an accident, or an illness such as cancer, there are no traditions for expressing sympathy. The straight world is often insensitive and even cruel to the survivors whose relationships were not considered quite legitimate. Three who have gone through the grieving process share their thoughts.

*This is Dedicated* is an unusual and feeling portrait of people who have had to cope with their grief in an unsympathetic world. It is a unique resource to sensitize social workers, counselors, clergy, and family members to the needs of these bereaved.

24 min Video Sale \$295 Rental \$55 *Released 1993*

## Comrades in Arms

Director, Stuart Marshall



*I expected to hear stories of persecution and oppression but I was pleasantly surprised to discover that most of the people we talked to in our research had a riotous time.*

Stuart Marshall, Director

*the people interviewed are noteworthy for their good humor, self-esteem, and discretion.*

Landers Film & Video Reviews

This entertaining film opened the New York International Lesbian & Gay Film Festival. Intercut with popular songs, archival film clips and period reenactments, gay men and lesbian women recall their secret lives while serving in the British armed forces during World War II.

These men and women were both patriotic and brave. They were forced to hide their sexual orientation while in the service of their country. Yet with secrecy and discretion, relationships were established that enabled them to survive the fears and uncertainties of military life.

This heretofore undocumented story of gay men and women's contribution to the war effort will interest sophisticated audiences everywhere.

- Red Ribbon American Film & Video Festival, 1991
- American Psychological Association, 1991
- New York International Festival of Lesbian & Gay Film, 1990
- Margaret Mead Film Festival, 1990

52 min Video Sale \$250 Rental \$75 *Released 1991*

## 3

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